

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3, 8, 14 and 20 - 34 are in this application and are presented for consideration.

Claims 2, 3, 8 and 14 have been amended, and new claims 21 - 34 have been added.

The specification and claims have been amended to address the rejections and to place the application in better form.

The claims have also been amended in view of the decision of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences. In particular, the term “substantially” has been removed from claim 20. This should now overcome the Board’s decision that claim 20 stands rejected under 35 USC section 112 second paragraph because the term “substantially” is unclear.

Claim 20 has also been amended to remove the structure being described as a closed compact unit. The board had made a new ground of rejection due to the term “closed” being unclear. Since this structure has been removed from claim 20, the new ground of rejection is now moot.

With this amendment applicant has also added new independent claim 26 which does not have any of the structure objected to above. Therefore new independent claim 26 overcomes the above rejections.

Applicant now wishes to describe the features of claim 26 using the reference numerals shown in the embodiment of the drawings to help understand how the present claims relate to the embodiment of the present drawings. The features of the claims can be embodied by other structure, and the drawings are only an example of a possible embodiment. Therefore the reference numbers do not further limit the claims to the corresponding structures shown in the

present drawings.

Claim 26 sets forth a common support frame 4 on which first and second cutting units (1, 2, or 6,) are movably mounted. The first and second cutting units include a unit frame 8. Applicant has use the term "unit frame" to differentiate element 8 from the support frame 4. A cutting strip 14 and a knife 10 are connected to the unit frame 8. As one can see from figure 3, the cutting unit 2 has a unit frame 8 to which the knife 10 and cutting strip 14 are connected. Claim 26 sets forth that the unit frame absorbs all cutting forces between the knife 10 and a cutting strip 14 during a cut. As one can see from figure 3, unit frame 8 is arranged, and connected to the knife 10 and cutting strip 14, so that the unit frame will absorb all the cutting forces between the knife 10 and the cutting strip 14 when the knife 10 cuts down on the cutting strip 14. The specification on page 5, lines 10 through 14, indicate that the cutting units are movably mounted on the support frame, and figure 1 shows this movement by the movement arrows v and h.

It is applicant's position that a person of ordinary skill in the art would be able to make and use the unit frame which absorbs the cutting forces between the knife and the cutting strip based on the drawings and specification. The drawings clearly show the connection and arrangement of the unit frame 8 to the knife 10 and cutting strip 14. If the person of ordinary skill makes and uses a cutting unit as described and shown, the unit frame will absorb all the cutting forces. It is also applicant's position that making the entire cutting unit (1, 2, or 6) movable on a support frame 4 it is within the ability of a person of ordinary skill, especially given the description in the specification and drawings. Therefore claim 26 should be in full

compliance with 35 USC section 112.

The previous claims have been previously rejected as being obvious over Sarring and Mohr. Applicant has reviewed these references, and finds no teaching nor suggestion of a unit frame which absorbs all the cutting forces between a knife and a cutting strip, and where the unit frame, the knife and the cutting strip are part of a cutting unit that is movable on a support frame. Therefore it is applicant's position that claim 26 defines over the prior art.

Amended independent claim 20, also sets forth the features of the unit frame absorbing all the cutting forces between a knife and a cutting strip, and that the unit frame, the knife and the cutting strip are part of a cutting unit that is movable on a support frame. Therefore amended claim 20 should also be in conformance with 35 USC section 112, and claim 20 should also define over the prior art.

Applicant also notes that claims 25 and 32 have features where the pressing elements have a fixed support and an oblique support, and where the oblique support is more elastic than the fixed support. In the embodiment of figure 2, this structure is shown by elements 22a and 22b. It appears that similar structure was indicated to be allowable in the previous office actions.

Additional claims have been added to set forth further features of the invention which are also not taught nor suggested in the references. These features are self evident from the claims themselves and it is applicant's position that these claims therefore further define over the references.

Applicant again thanks the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter. If the

Examiner has any comments or suggestions which would further favorable prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's representative by telephone to discuss possible changes.

Applicant also wishes to conduct a personal interview with the Examiner prior to the Examiner officially responding to this Amendment. Applicant will contact the Examiner by telephone to discuss a date and time which is acceptable to both the Examiner and Applicant.

Respectfully submitted
for Applicant,

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